

5.0 Consultation and Coordination

MFSA requires that a project applicant consult with government agencies to identify their concerns over the facility's possible locations or effects on the environment, to discuss mitigation measures suggested by the agencies, and to explain how the agency concerns were incorporated into identifying the proposed Project and alternative locations. MEPA and NEPA require DEQ and DOE to consult with local, Federal, and state agencies about the proposed Project during the project scoping.

DEQ and DOE have consulted with the applicant, other Federal and state agencies, local governments, and with individuals and non-government stakeholders. The consultation process took place during scoping and follow-up discussions. Interested individuals and organizations, affected Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as affected Indian Tribes were invited to submit comments to DEQ and DOE. MFSA requires FWP, DNRC, MDT, the Department of Revenue, and the Public Service Commission to report their recommendations on this project to DEQ. Results of this reporting would be incorporated into the final EIS.

Initial Consultation and Coordination

The MFSA consultation process began on May 9, 2005, when MATL representatives met with DEQ personnel to introduce the proposed Project and discuss issues or concerns during initial stages of the MFSA application process. MATL conducted open house sessions in Conrad and Cut Bank, Montana, on June 29 and 30, 2005, to provide the public an opportunity to meet representatives of the MATL project team and obtain information on the scope of the project. These open houses provided a venue for the public to voice and document their concerns and issues to MATL.

DEQ hosted an interagency project meeting on August 26, 2005, in Helena, Montana, to familiarize participating agency personnel with the proposed Project, to field agency questions, and to formalize agency roles and responsibilities. Attendees for the August 26, 2005, meeting included personnel from the following agencies:

- DEQ
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE; via teleconference)
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
- Montana Department of Commerce
- DNRC

MATL submitted a MFSA application to DEQ on December 1, 2005, and submitted additional information and/or amended the application on January 11, January 24, March 16, March 30, June 9, July 31, August 11, November 30, and December 15, 2006, [and several others in 2007 and 2008](#).

Public Scoping

Three public scoping meetings were held in Cut Bank, Conrad, and Great Falls in early December 2005. The scoping process is discussed in Section 1.5. A follow-up meeting was held in Cut Bank on June 26, 2006. The December 2005 and June 2006 public meetings were advertised in *The Valerian*, *The Cut Bank Pioneer Press*, *The Glacier Reporter*, and *The Shelby Promoter* for a 3-week period prior to meetings. Based on the additional public comments and to address deficiencies in the original December 1, 2005, application, MATL revised its MFSA application and provided additional information as discussed above.

DOE also published a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment and to Conduct Public Scoping Meetings in the *Federal Register* on November 18, 2005 (70 FR 69962). A copy of this notice was transmitted by mail to landowners in the study area.

Formal and Informal Consultation and Coordination

In addition to the general meetings and telephone contacts, DEQ hosted a meeting in Great Falls on October 6, 2006, to share information about multiple projects that may involve construction in and around the NWE Great Falls 230-kV [Switchyard](#). Meeting attendees for the October 6, 2006, Great Falls meeting included personnel from the following agencies and organizations:

- DEQ
- MATL
- NorthWestern Energy Corporation
- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)
- PPL Montana
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
- Sheffels Farms, Inc.
- Joe Stanek Farms (area landowner)
- Tetra Tech

Concerned citizens have submitted written comments and suggestions and have called DEQ throughout the process. [The distribution list for this EIS is in Chapter 9. The list of commenters on the Draft EIS is in Volume 2.](#)

[DOE sent letters to the Blackfeet Nation and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes soliciting information about historic properties in or near the Project area and providing them with an opportunity to identify their concerns about such properties, including potential mitigation measures \(Appendix P\).](#)

DEQ, DOE, and MATL have sought consultation from other interested individuals, SHPO, USFWS, and non-government organizations, as well as affected Indian Tribes. [Consultation with SHPO and USFWS have been completed.](#)

MATL also sought consultation with the Blackfeet Tribal Council in Browning. On September 12, 2005, MATL and representatives from their project team met with Blackfeet Tribal Council members in Browning to discuss potential effects on tribal economic, social, and traditional lands interests. Blackfeet Tribal Council members, staff, and interested parties in attendance included: Owna Scott-Big Bull, William Big Bull, John Murray, Teri Lawrence, Wendy Running Crane, Brian Crawford, Terry Tatsey, Douglas Quade, Curly Bear Wagner, Joseph Weatherwax, Kenneth Augare, Gerald Wagner, Pat Schildt, and Earl Old Person. Following introductions and a brief project overview provided by MATL personnel, Blackfeet Councilmen, staff, and tribal members raised several substantive issues that were addressed or recorded for follow-up. See Section 3.14 for discussion of cultural resources.

Public Hearings on the March 2007 Document

In March 2007, the DEQ and DOE published a draft document that was both the Federal EA and the State of Montana Draft EIS (March 2007 document). The document was distributed for public comment, and three public hearings were conducted to receive comments on the document during a 55-day public comment period. The public hearings were held at:

- Conrad on Tuesday, March 27, 2007
- Cut Bank on Wednesday, March 28, 2007
- Great Falls on Thursday, March 29, 2007

[Over 600 comments were received on the March 2007 Document.](#) Based on comments relating to land use and potential effects on farming, DOE determined an EIS to be the proper NEPA compliance document. Accordingly, on June 7, 2007, DOE published in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 31569) a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS and to Conduct Scoping. [The Draft EIS was published in February 2008 and included the responses to the comments received on the March 2007 document in Volume 2.](#)

Public Hearings on the Draft EIS

Following publication and notice of availability of the Draft EIS in the *Federal Register* on February 15, 2008 (73 FR 8869), the agencies held a 45-day comment period that ended on March 31, 2008. During the comment period, the agencies hosted three public hearings allowing the public to submit oral and written comments. The agencies held public hearings in:

- Great Falls on Tuesday, March 11, 2008
- Cut Bank on Wednesday, March 12, 2008
- Conrad on Thursday, March 13, 2008.

The agencies also accepted written comments from the public throughout the comment period.

6.0 List of Preparers

Department of Environmental Quality

| Name | Title | Education | Years of Experience |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Tom Ring | Project Coordinator | B.S., Fish and Wildlife Management | 26 |
| Greg Hallsten | Project Coordinator | B.S., Earth Science | 18 |
| Warren McCullough | EIS Reviewer | B.S., MS Range Management | 13 |
| Nancy Johnson | Visuals | B.S., Wildlife Biology | 25 |
| | EIS Reviewer | B.A., Anthropology | |
| | | M.S. Geology | |
| | | B.S., Education | |
| | | M.S., Secondary Education | |
| | | M.L.A, Landscape Architecture | |
| Jeff Blend | Socioeconomics | B.S., Economics | 10 |
| | Transmission System | M.S., Economics | |
| | Analysis | PhD., Agricultural Economics | |
| Craig Jones | Land Use/EIS Reviewer | B.A., Political Science | 3 |

Tetra Tech

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----|
| Cameo Flood | Assistant Project Manager | B.S., Forestry | 21 |
| | Land Use, Farming and Ranching | | |
| J. Edward Surbrugg | EIS Project Manager | B.S., Range Ecology | 26 |
| | Vegetation/Wetlands | M.S., Land Rehabilitation | |
| | | Ph.D., Soil Science | |
| Jim Dushin | Visual Simulations | A.A.S., Forestry | 28 |
| | | B.S., Wildlife Biology | |
| Chris Reynolds | Geology and Soils | B. S., Geology | 18 |
| | | M.S. Geochemistry/Hydrogeology | |
| Ed Madej | Database/GIS | B.S., Biology and Oceanography | 25 |
| Stacy Pease | Wildlife/Fisheries | M.S. Watershed Management | 8 |
| | | B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science | |
| Gary Sturm, P.E. | Engineering | B.S., Engineering Physics | 30 |
| | | M.S., Civil Engineering | |
| Alicia Stickney | Editorial Review, Community Resources | B.A., English | 18 |
| | | M.S., Geology | |
| Alice Stanley | MEPA/NEPA Specialist | B.S., Geology | 24 |
| | Hydrology | M.S., Geology | |
| Alane Dallas | Word Processing/ Admin Record | | 15 |
| Linda Daehn | Public Relations | B.S., Journalism | 17 |
| Dan Buffalo | Groundwater | M.S., Water Resources Management | 26 |
| | | B.S., Biology | |
| Chris Martin | Surface Water/Visuals | M.S. Coursework, Mathematics | 26 |
| | | Teacher Cert/B.A. Equiv., Mathematics | |
| | | B.S., Watershed Science – Hydrology | |

Tetra Tech (Cont.)

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|----|
| Earl Griffith | Utilities and Transportation | B.S., Earth Science (Geology) M.S., Earth Science (Geology) | 32 |
| H. Mark Blauer | Human Health and Environment | PhD., Nuclear Chemistry M.S., Earth and Space Sciences B.S., Chemistry | 34 |
| Heidi Raymer | Electromagnetic Effects | B.S., Nursing B.S., Environmental Occupational Safety and Health | 5 |
| Jay Rose | Presidential Permit | B.S., Ocean Engineering J.D. | 22 |
| Amy Sivers | Hazardous Materials | M.S., Geosciences B.A., Geography | 6 |
| C. Ray Windmueller | Air | B.S., Petroleum Engineering | 18 |
| Nancy Linscott | Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice | B.S., Earth Science (Geology) M.S., Environmental Policy and Management | 18 |
| Keith Cron | Noise | M.S., Industrial Hygiene B.S., Science and Engineering | 7 |
| Mike DaSilva | NEPA/MEPA Specialist | B.A., Biology M.S., Biology | 25 |

HRA

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|---------------|--------------------|--|----|
| Weber Greiser | Cultural Resources | B.S., Anthropology M.A., Anthropology | 20 |
|---------------|--------------------|--|----|

Glossary

Affected Environment: Existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as the result of a proposed human action.

Air Pollution: Dust, fumes, smoke, other particulate matter, vapor, gas, odorous substances or any combination of these.

Alignment: The facility location.

Alluvial: Composed of alluvium or deposited by a stream or running water.

Alluvium: A general term for all deposits resulting from the operations of modern rivers and creeks, including the sediments laid down in riverbeds, floodplains, and fans at the foot of mountain slopes.

Ambient Air Quality Standard: An established concentration, exposure time, and frequency of occurrence of air contaminant(s) in the ambient air that shall not be exceeded.

Ambient Level: The existing level of air pollutants, noise, or other environmental factors used to describe background conditions (i.e., conditions before a project is implemented).

Analysis area: The area, defined for each resource, which the impact analysis addresses. The analysis boundary is different for each resource. For instance, the impact to soils or vegetation of a transmission pole may be confined to the structure footprint. The impact to land use may be the entire field in which the structure is placed.

Aquifer: Rock or sediment which is saturated with water and sufficiently permeable to transmit economic quantities of water to wells.

Benthic: of, relating to, or occurring at the bottom of a body of water.

Best Management Practices: A practice or combination of practices that is determined to be the most effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of controlling point and nonpoint pollutants at levels compatible with environmental quality goals.

Big Game: Those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport hunting resource.

Centerline: See reference centerline.

Class 3 farmland- In accordance with the provisions of 15-7-202, MCA, contiguous parcels of land under one ownership as defined in ARM 42.20.601, 160 acres or larger in size shall be valued as agricultural land, provided that no portion of the ownership meets the criteria for forest land classification and there are no covenants, easements, deed restrictions, or other operations of law that prohibit the land from being used as agricultural, or the land is not used for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes. (42-20-640, MCA)

Class 10 timberland- contiguous land of 15 acres or more in one ownership that is capable of producing timber that can be harvested in commercial quantities (can produce 25 cubic feet or more of stemwood per acre per year in live softwood trees at the culmination of the mean annual increment for fully stocked, natural stands and (2) meets the stocking requirements set forth by an administrative rule. (ARM 42.20.701)) and that is producing timber unless the trees have been removed by man through harvest or by natural disaster. (15-44-102, MCA)

Colluvium: Rock detritus and soil accumulated at the foot of a slope.

Conductor: Wires or lines that carry the electrical current in a transmission line.

Corona: Breakdown of the air, for example, on the surface of a high-voltage conductor, to produce air ions

CRP Lands: Farmlands for which a landowner receives an annual payment and cost-share assistance to establish long-term resource conserving covers. Administered by the U.S. Farm Service Agency.

Cultural Resources: Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activities, occupations, and endeavors as reflected in sites, buildings, structures, or objects, including works of art, architecture, and engineering.

Cumulative effect: Environmental effects that result from the incremental impact of a Proposed Action in addition to other actions (past, present, or future) in the vicinity. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Current: The flow of electricity. A voltage will always try to drive a current. The size current that is driven depends on the resistance of the circuit.

dB(A): Stands for A weighted decibels. This decibel scale is used to approximate the way human hearing responds more to some frequencies than to others.

Dead end: A point on a distribution line where conductors terminate. A "double dead-end" has conductors terminating from two directions. Jumper wires are used to connect these two sets of conductors.

Dead end: (angle greater than 45°): A transmission line structure that would be used where the line turns at an angle greater than 45°. The structure used in this instance would be a 3 pole dead end.

Dead end: (angle less than 1°): A transmission line structure that would be used where the line turns less than 1°. The structure used in this instance would be a 4 pole dead end.

Direct impact: An effect that results solely from the construction or operation of the Proposed Action.

DGPS: Differential Global Positioning System is an enhancement to Global Positioning System that uses a network of fixed ground based reference stations to broadcast the difference between the positions indicated by the satellite systems and the known fixed positions. These stations broadcast the difference between the measured satellite pseudoranges and actual (internally computed) pseudoranges, and receiver stations may correct their pseudoranges by the same amount.

Easement: a general term for a limited right to make use of a property owned by another party.

Electric fields: Produced by voltages, irrespective of how much current is flowing and indeed whether any current is flowing at all. The electric field is the region around a conductor where a force will be experienced by a charge.

Electric Grid: All parts of an electrical system that are directly connected to each other through alternating current transmission lines. The term used in the industry is "Interconnection."

Electric Transmission Grid: The western grid moves power from many different generating plants to customers and their electric loads.

Electromagnetic interference: high frequency electrical noise that can cause radio and television interference.

Emergent Wetland: Any area of a vegetated wetland where non-woody vegetation (e.g. cattail, grasses, sedges) comprises at least 30 percent areal cover.

Eminent Domain: In common law legal systems is the inherent power of the state to seize a citizen's private property, expropriate property, or rights in property, without the owner's consent. The property is taken either for government use or by delegation to third parties who will devote it to "public use." The most common uses of property taken by eminent domain are public utilities, highways, and railroads. Some states require that the government body offer to purchase the property before resorting to the use of eminent domain.

Emission: The release of air contaminants into the ambient air.

Emission Standard: A requirement established under the Federal Clean Air Act which limits the quantity, rate, or concentration of emissions of air contaminants on a continuous basis.

EMFs: Electric and magnetic fields. Sometimes also defined as electromagnetic fields.

Environmental effect: Any change that an action may cause in the environment, including biological resources, land use, health and socioeconomic conditions, cultural heritage, geology, and paleontology.

Environmental Justice: Evaluation of potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts on low income and/or minority populations that may result from a Proposed Action.

Ephemeral Drainage: A stream or stream segment that flows only briefly in response to local precipitation and has no base flow.

Erosion: Wearing away of soil and rock by weathering and the actions of surface water, wind, and underground water.

Farmland of Statewide Importance: Land that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops. Criteria for defining and delineating this land are to be determined by the appropriate State agency or agencies. Generally, additional farmlands of statewide importance include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC): The Federal commission that regulates interstate and wholesale power transactions, including power sales and transmission services, as well as licensing of hydroelectric projects.

Floodplains: Floodplains are the lowlands and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters and the flood prone areas of offshore islands. Regulatory floodplain means an area inundated by a 100-year flood as depicted on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The 100-year flood is the flood event estimated as having a 1.0 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Fugitive Dust: A particulate emission made airborne by forces of wind, human activity, or both. Unpaved roads, construction sites, and tilled land are examples of areas that originate fugitive dust.

Heavy angle structure: A transmission line structure that would be used where the line turns between 30° and 45°.

Impact zone: The study area in which data are collected during the baseline study in order to make a determination of the impacts from construction, operation, maintenance, or decommissioning of a proposed facility or associated facility at preferred and reasonable alternative locations.

Indirect impact: An effect that is related to but removed from a Proposed Action by an intermediate step or process.

Insulators: a device made of porcelain or polymer that prevents energized conductors from coming in contact with each other. They also prevent conductors from energizing structures or facilities that are not designed to carry electricity. Bushings are a type of insulator.

Intermittent Stream: A stream that flows in a well-defined channel in response to precipitation and is dry for part of the year.

Jurisdictional wetlands: Wetlands protected by the Clean Water Act. They must have a minimum of one positive wetland indicator from each parameter (i.e.,

vegetation, soil, and hydrology). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requires a permit to fill or dredge jurisdictional wetlands.

Kilovolt (kV): 1,000 Volts. The Volt is unit for measuring electrical potential, or "pressure."

Kilovolt ampere (kVA): The practical unit of apparent power, which is 1,000 volt-amperes. The volt-amperes of an electric circuit are the mathematical products of the volts and amperes of the client.

Kilowatt (kW): The electric unit of power equal to 1,000 watts.

Kilowatt-Hour (kWh): The basic unit of electric energy equal to one kilowatt of power supplied to or taken from an electric circuit for one hour.

Lacustrine: Of, relating to, formed in, living in, or growing in lakes.

Lek: A traditional courtship display area attended by male sharp-tailed grouse or sage grouse.

Linear facility: An electric transmission line or pipeline covered under Montana's Major Facility Siting Act.

Load: The amount of electric power delivered or required at any specified point or points on a system. Load originates primarily at the power consuming equipment of the customer.

Megawatt (MW): One million watts.

Megawatt-hour (MWh): One thousand kilowatt-hours or one million-watt hours.

Medium angle structure: A transmission line structure that would be used where the line turns between 5° and 30°.

Mesic: Characterized by, relating to, or requiring a moderate amount of moisture.

Milligauss: A unit of measurement for magnetic fields.

Mitigation: An action to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace or rectify the impact of a management practice.

Montana Major Facility Siting Act (MFSA): This law governs the siting of most large energy transporting facilities in Montana.

Nacelle: The structure in a wind turbine that houses the rotor shaft, gearbox, and generator.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): This act requires Federal agencies to evaluate the environmental effects of Proposed Actions.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂): A reddish brown gas that is a component of smog.

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x): A group of compounds containing varying proportions of nitrogen and oxygen.

No Action Alternative: The No Action alternative is required by MEPA and regulations implementing NEPA. The No Action alternative provides a baseline for estimating the effects of other alternatives. Where a project activity is being evaluated, the No Action alternative is defined as one where No Action or activity would take place.

Nonattainment: Description of areas of the state not yet in compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC): NERC consists of eight regional reliability councils: Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT), Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC), Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO), Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC), Reliability First Corporation (RFC), Southeastern Electric Reliability Corporation (SERC), Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP), and Western electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).

Noxious Weed: Exotic (non-native) species of plants that proliferate and reduce the value of land for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife, or other beneficial uses.

Operational right-of-way: MATL defined the transmission line operational right-of-way as 45 feet wide (22.47 feet to either side of the centerline).

Palustrine: Inland wetland that lacks flowing water and contains less than 0.05 percent ocean-derived salts.

Passerine: Large order of birds which include songbirds of perching habits.

Per capita personal income: According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the average income received per person. This includes income received from all sources such as wages, proprietor's income, rental income, and dividend income.

Personal income (Total): Income received from all sources.

Prime Farmland: Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming methods.

Raptor: Bird of prey.

Reference centerline: The facility location. DEQ approves a 500-foot-wide facility location (250 feet to either side of a presumed centerline unless there is a compelling reason to enlarge or narrow this width).

Right-of-way: The right to pass over property owned by another. The strip of land over which facilities such as roadways, railroads, pipeline, or power lines are built.

Ruling Span- a calculated weighted average of span lengths between deadend power line towers. Ruling span is used to design transmission lines and then subsequently used in monitoring sag of the lines.

Salmonid: Any of a family (Salmonidae) of elongate bony fishes (as a salmon or trout) that have the last three vertebrae upturned.

Special Status Species: Those species of plants or animals that have a protective status designated by a state or Federal agency because of general or localized population decline.

Substation: an installation which accomplishes one or more of the following:

- voltage changed from one level to another level.
- voltage regulated to compensate for system voltage changes.
- electric transmission and distribution circuits switched into and out of the system.
- electric power flowing in the transmission and distribution circuits measured.
- communication signals are connected to the circuits.

System reliability: the ability of a power system to provide uninterrupted service.

Tertiary: The Tertiary period or system of rocks.

Topsoil: Fertile soil or soil material, usually rich in organic matter, used to top dress disturbed areas. Topsoil is better suited to supporting plants than other materials.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): The total amount of a pollutant, per day, (including a margin of safety) that a waterbody may receive from any source (point, nonpoint, or natural background) without exceeding the state water quality standards. The term frequently refers to a plan or strategy to return a waterbody to compliance with the water quality standards and therefore fully supporting of its designated uses.

Transmission capacity: the maximum load that a transmission line or network of transmission lines is designed to carry.

Transmission lines: High voltage electric conductors used for bulk movement of large volumes of power across relatively long distances.

Transmission restricted: the existing transmission capability is limiting the flow of electricity into and out of the area, in this case, Montana.

Utility: A regulated entity which exhibits the characteristics of a natural monopoly. For the purposes of electric industry restructuring “utility” refers to the regulated, vertically integrated electric company. “Transmission utility” refers to the regulated owner/operator of the transmission system only. “Distribution utility” refers to the regulated owner/operator of the distribution system which serves retail customers.

Viewshed: The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC): Any of several compounds of carbon that participate in atmospheric photochemical reactions, forming secondary pollutants.

Volt: A unit of electrical pressure. It measures the force or push of electricity. Volts represent pressure, correspondent to the pressure of water in a pipe. A volt is the unit of electromotive force or electric pressure analogous to water pressure in pounds per square inch. It is the electromotive force which, if steadily applied to a circuit having a resistance of one ohm, will produce a current one ampere.

Volt-amperes: The volt-amperes of an electric circuit are the mathematical products of the volts and amperes of the client.

Voltage: Measure of the force of moving energy.

Watt: The electric unit of power or rate of doing work. One horsepower is equivalent to approximately 746 watts.

Watt-Hour: One watt of power expended for one hour.

WECC: Western Electricity Coordinating Council is a regional forum for promoting regional electric service reliability in Western Canada and the Western United States.

Western Grid: The Western Grid includes the western third of the continental United States (excluding Alaska), the Canadian provinces Alberta and British Columbia, and a portion of Baja California Norte, Mexico.

Wetlands: Areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances, does or would support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS): Augments GPS with additional signals for increasing the reliability, integrity, accuracy and availability of GPS.

Xeric: Characterized by, relating to, or requiring only a small amount of moisture.

Acronym List

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ACSR | Aluminum Core Steel Reinforced |
| AESO | Alberta Electric System Operator |
| aMW | average megawatts |
| APLIC | Avian Power Line Interaction Committee |
| ARM | Administrative Rules of Montana |
| | |
| BLM | U.S. Bureau of Land Management |
| BPA | Bonneville Power Administration |
| | |
| CAMA | Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| cfs | Cubic feet per second |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| COE | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| CO | Carbon monoxide |
| CRP | Conservation Reserve Program |
| | |
| dBA | A-weighted decibels |
| DEQ | Montana Department of Environmental Quality |
| DGPS | Differential Global Positioning System |
| DNRC | Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation |
| DOE | U.S. Department of Energy |
| DOR | Montana Department of Revenue |
| | |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EEI | Edison Electric Institute |
| EIS | Environmental impact statement |
| E.O. | Executive Order |
| EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| EMF | Electric and magnetic field |
| | |
| FAA | Federal Aviation Administration |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FERC | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission |
| FIRM | Flood Insurance Rate Maps |
| ft | feet |
| ft² | square feet |
| ft/day | feet per day |
| FWP | Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks |
| FWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GPS | Global Positioning System |
| HUC | Hydrologic unit codes |
| HUD | Housing and Urban Development |
| Kcmil | 1,000 circular mils |
| kV | Kilovolt |
| kV/m | Kilovolts per meter |
| kWh | Kilowatt hour |
| L_{dn} | day-night average noise level |
| LIDAR | Light Detection and Ranging |
| mA | Milliampere |
| MATL | Montana-Alberta Tie, Ltd. |
| MBMG | Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology |
| MCA | Montana Code Annotated |
| MDT | Montana Department of Transportation |
| MEPA | Montana Environmental Policy Act |
| MFSA | Montana Major Facility Siting Act |
| mG | Milligauss |
| MHz | megahertz |
| MPDES | Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| MRMC | Missouri River Medical Center |
| mVA | Megavolt-amperes |
| MW | Megawatt |
| ND | No data |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NERC | North American Electric Reliability Council |
| NESC | National Electrical al and Safety Code |
| NHP | Montana Natural Heritage Program |
| NIEHS | National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| NO_x | Nitrogen oxide |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NRIS | Natural Resource Information System |
| NWE | NorthWestern Energy |
| NWR | National Wildlife Refuge |
| NWS | National Weather Service |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| OASIS | Open Access Same Time Information System |
| OSHA | Occupational Safety and Health Act |
| PAB | Palustrine Aquatic Bed wetlands |
| Pb | Lead |
| PEM | Palustrine emergent |
| PM₁₀ | Particulate matter equal to or smaller than 10 microns |
| PM_{2.5} | Particulate matter equal to or smaller than 2.5 microns |
| PPL | Pacific Power and Light |
| ppm | Parts per million |
| PSD | Prevention of Significant Deterioration |
| PUB | Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom wetlands |
| PUS | Palustrine Unconsolidated Shore wetlands |
| ROW | Right-of-way |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Office |
| SO₂ | Sulfur dioxide |
| SSSA | Soil Science Society of America |
| SWPPP | Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan |
| TBD | To be determined |
| TMDL | Total maximum daily load |
| USC | United States Code |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USFS | U.S. Forest Service |
| WAAS | Wide Area Augmentation System |
| WAPA | Western Area Power Administration |
| WECC | Western Electricity Coordinating Council |
| WPA | Waterfowl Production Area |
| WRCC | Western Regional Climate Center |
| µg/m³ | Micrograms per square meter |
| USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| USGS | U.S. Geological Survey |

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9.0 Distribution List

FEDERAL AGENCIES

[U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency](#)

[U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

[U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service](#)

[U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance](#)

[U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office](#)

[U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Havre Field Station](#)

[U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#)

[U.S. Department of the Interior, Glacier National Park](#)

[U.S. Department of Interior, U. S. Geological Survey](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, Denver](#)

[Western Area Power Administration](#)

[Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#)

STATE AGENCIES

[Montana Department of Environmental Quality](#)

[Montana Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks](#)

[Montana Department of Labor/Job Service](#)

[Montana Department of Revenue](#)

[Montana Department of Transportation](#)

[Montana DNRC Trust Lands Management](#)

[Montana Environmental Quality Council](#)

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[Montana Department of Labor/Job Service](#)

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TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

[National Congress of American Indians](#)

[Blackfeet Nation](#)

[Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes](#)

COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

[City of Great Falls](#)

[County of Toole](#)

[Glacier County Commission](#)

[Pondera County Canal & Reservoir](#)

[Pondera County Commissioners](#)

[Toole County Board of Commissioners](#)

[Toole County Development](#)

ELECTED OFFICIALS

[Brian Schweitzer, Governor of Montana](#)

[Max Baucus, United States Senate](#)

[John Tester, United States Senate](#)

[Denny Rehberg, United States House of Representatives](#)

[Jerry Black Montana Senate District 14](#)

[Edith Clark, Montana House District 14](#)

[Montana State Senator Glenn Roush, Cut Bank](#)

[Mayor Gary Iverson, Sunburst, Montana](#)

[Mayor John P. Shevlin, Conrad, Montana](#)

[Mayor Dona Stebbins, Great Falls](#)

[Mayor Joni Stewart, Cut Bank](#)

[Mayor Larry Bonderud, Shelby](#)

LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS

[Conrad Public Library](#)

[Conrad Public Schools](#)

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[Dutton Public Library](#)

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ORGANIZATIONS AND INDUSTRY

| | |
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| <u>Acme Ranch Co.</u> | <u>Great Falls Shooting Sports Co.</u> |
| <u>Aiken Ranch Co.</u> | <u>Great Falls Tribune</u> |
| <u>Alliance for the Wild Rockies</u> | <u>Great Plains Wind & Energy</u> |
| <u>American Recreation Properties</u> | <u>Habel Commodities, Inc.</u> |
| <u>Anderson Brothers LLC</u> | <u>Habel, Ray Inc.</u> |
| <u>Andre O. Lippens Trist</u> | <u>Hemry Ronnie Farm Inc.</u> |
| <u>Apex Angus Inc.</u> | <u>Heurion Family Trust</u> |
| <u>Armstrong Ranch Inc.</u> | <u>Hillside Colony Inc.</u> |
| <u>Benton Lake Land Company</u> | <u>Hydro Solutions Inc.</u> |
| <u>Berland Farms Inc.</u> | <u>IBEW 44</u> |
| <u>Big Sky Wind Project LP</u> | <u>Invenergy</u> |
| <u>Bookma Farms Inc.</u> | <u>Iverson Farm Co.</u> |
| <u>Border States Electric</u> | <u>JPE Land & Livestock</u> |
| <u>Bernice Boucher et al</u> | <u>JC O'Brien & Sons Inc.</u> |
| <u>Bouma Brothers</u> | <u>Job Service</u> |
| <u>Briggs W.R. Co.</u> | <u>KMC Inc.</u> |
| <u>BW Farms Inc.</u> | <u>LTH Farms Inc.</u> |
| <u>C & E Farms</u> | <u>Leaning Pine Lnad Co.</u> |
| <u>C and S Farms</u> | <u>Liberty Farms Inc.</u> |
| <u>Choteau Acantha</u> | <u>Lightner Farms Inc.</u> |
| <u>Circle S Ranch Inc.</u> | <u>Linco Inc.</u> |
| <u>Compton Signatures</u> | <u>MacDonald BCD Inc.</u> |
| <u>Contemporary Communications LLC</u> | <u>MacDonald Brent Inc.</u> |
| <u>Curry Cattle Co.</u> | <u>Marias River Land & Livestock</u> |
| <u>Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce</u> | <u>Mart Cheek</u> |
| <u>CWC Farms Inc.</u> | <u>Maurer Farms Inc.</u> |
| <u>Destiny Communications LLC</u> | <u>McRae & McRae Enterprises</u> |
| <u>E & K Torgerson Inc.</u> | <u>McAlpine ranches Inc.</u> |
| <u>Eney Farms Partnership</u> | <u>McCormick Wind Park</u> |
| <u>Euramex Services Limited</u> | <u>McFarland & Sons</u> |
| <u>Fagan Grain Inc.</u> | <u>MDOC/RDO</u> |
| <u>Farmland Reserve Inc.</u> | <u>MDT - Utilities</u> |
| <u>Flesch Farms Inc.</u> | <u>MEIC Energy Program</u> |
| <u>Frank Family Properties LLC</u> | <u>Mercury Montana Inc.</u> |
| <u>Gain Development</u> | <u>Merja Farms Inc.</u> |
| <u>Glacier Colony</u> | <u>Monroe Brothers</u> |
| <u>Glacier Electric</u> | <u>Monroe, Vernon J. Inc.</u> |
| <u>Glacier Pipeline Co.</u> | <u>Montana Alberta Tie Ltd.</u> |
| <u>Glacier Two Medicine Alliance</u> | <u>Montana Audubon</u> |
| <u>Golden West Farm Inc.</u> | <u>Montana Grain Growers Association</u> |
| <u>Great Falls Development Authority</u> | <u>Montana Green Bulletin</u> |

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| <u>Montana Land Reliance</u> | <u>Schlepp Family Tust</u> |
| <u>Montana Milling</u> | <u>Schuette Farms Inc.</u> |
| <u>Montana Preservation Alliance</u> | <u>Schulter Ranch Inc.</u> |
| <u>Montana Stock Growers Association</u> | <u>Selstad Trust</u> |
| <u>Montana Wilderness Association</u> | <u>Shane Trust</u> |
| <u>Montana Wildlife Federation</u> | <u>Shant Farm</u> |
| <u>Mountain View Farm Inc.</u> | <u>Sheffels Farms</u> |
| <u>Montana AFL/CIO</u> | <u>Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce</u> |
| <u>National Parks Conservation Association</u> | <u>Shriner Hospitals for Crippled Children</u> |
| <u>Nelson Acres Holding Co.</u> | <u>Sierra Club, Northern Plains Office</u> |
| <u>Neuman Land & Livestock Inc.</u> | <u>Skorupa Farms, A Montana Corporation</u> |
| <u>Northern Rockies Medical Center</u> | <u>Solar Plexus LLC</u> |
| <u>Northwestern Corporation</u> | <u>Somerfeld & Sons Land and Livestock</u> |
| <u>NorthWestern Energy</u> | <u>Starshine</u> |
| <u>O'Brien J C & Sons, Inc.</u> | <u>Stetler, Evalina Wystub</u> |
| <u>Orcutt Inc.</u> | <u>Stinson Trust</u> |
| <u>Otness Inc.</u> | <u>Sutacres Inc.</u> |
| <u>Philips & & L Family Limited</u> | <u>Sweetgrass Development</u> |
| <u>Phillips, Shirley Mae</u> | <u>T & L Grain</u> |
| <u>Pondera Economic Development Corporation</u> | <u>The Nature Conservancy of Montana</u> |
| <u>Pondera Regional Port Authority</u> | <u>Thomas L. Ellis Trust</u> |
| <u>PP&L Montana LLC</u> | <u>Torgerson & Sons Inc.</u> |
| <u>PP&S</u> | <u>Torgerson Farms Partnership</u> |
| <u>R4M Blanchet Inc.</u> | <u>Trust Corp of Montana</u> |
| <u>Raptor View Research Institute</u> | <u>TW Farms Inc.</u> |
| <u>Ries Land & Cattle Inc.</u> | <u>V & V Ranch Inc.</u> |
| <u>Rimrock Angus Ranch</u> | <u>Vanderstoep Trust</u> |
| <u>Rock Rings Inc.</u> | <u>Vandyke Farms Inc.</u> |
| <u>Rohrer Trust</u> | <u>Wells Fargo Bank Trustee</u> |
| <u>Roll LLP</u> | <u>Wenzel Farms</u> |
| <u>Rosholt Farms Inc.</u> | <u>Western Interstate Energy Board</u> |
| <u>Russell, William T & Gary Trust</u> | <u>Western Resource Advocates</u> |
| <u>S D Lands Inc.</u> | <u>Wind Hunter LLC</u> |
| <u>Scattered Acres Farms Inc.</u> | <u>Wright Farms Ltd Partnership</u> |

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| <u>Arlene M & Raymond Anderson</u> | <u>Stephanie Browning</u> |
| <u>Clinton Anderson</u> | <u>Gerald & Barbara Bruner</u> |
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| <u>Dale & Mary Ann Arnst</u> | <u>Woodrow Bunyak</u> |
| <u>Charyn Ayoub</u> | <u>John Allen & Deanna Burgmaier</u> |
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| <u>Eugene W. & Jacqueline Ball</u> | <u>Hugh Edward Cameron</u> |
| <u>Hazel M. Ballard</u> | <u>Robert A. Cameron</u> |
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| <u>Dawn Barrett</u> | <u>Tom & Lorette Carter</u> |
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| <u>David Bednar</u> | <u>Joe Christians</u> |
| <u>Paul Belanger</u> | <u>Christy Clark</u> |
| <u>Peggy Beltrone</u> | <u>Jim Cloud</u> |
| <u>Dan Bennett</u> | <u>Edna Clough</u> |
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